

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MADRID 03292 281847Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-07
LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 AID-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00 SY-05
MCT-01 OC-06 CCO-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 L-03
NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /102 W
-----282146Z 033135 /46

P R 281816Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0015
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION NATO
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
USMISSION GENEVA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MADRID 3292

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, SP, PINT
SUBJECT: MAY 1 LABOR DAY

REF: MADRID 3229

1. TOP LEADERSHIP OF BOTH SOCIALIST UGT AND BASQUE STV
INFORMED LABATT THAT GOVT HAS REVERSED ITS DECISION TO
ALLOW MAY 1 LABOR DAY MEETINGS IN SPAIN (REFTEL). SYNDICAL
RELATIONS MINISTER DE LA MATA "REGRETFULLY" BROKE THE NEWS
DURING A MEETING WITH TRADE UNION LEADERS THE
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MORNING OF APRIL 28. FIRST VICE PRESIDENT LTGEN GUTIERREZ
MELLADO HAD APPARENTLY TOLD DE LA MATA THAT THERE WAS GROWING
SUSPICION IN THE GOVT THAT EXTREME RIGHTWING ELEMENTS WOULD TRY TO
PROVOKE INCIDENTS ON LABOR DAY. THERE WERE ALSO REPORTS
THAT INTERNATIONAL "FASCIST ELEMENTS" HAD ENTERED INTO
SPAIN FOR THE PURPOSE OF MAKING TROUBLE MAY 1. FINALLY,
GUTIERREZ MELLADO HAD SAID THAT THERE WAS ALSO A CERTAIN

NERVOUSNESS IN MILITARY CIRCLES FOLLOWING THE DEATH
(APRIL 28) OF LTGEN FERNANDEZ VALLESPIN, CHIEF OF THE
SPANISH HIGH GENERAL STAFF (DAO 28/0905Z APR 77). FOR
THESE REASONS, THE GOVT HAD DECIDED NOT TO TAKE ANY
CHANCES AND HAD BANNED ANY LABOR DAY EVENTS.

2. UGT IS NATURALLY VERY UPSET. INTERNATIONAL SECRETARY
MANUEL SIMON COMMENTED TO US THAT IT SEEMED LUDICROUS
THAT THE VERY DAT THAT THEY (UGT, USO, STV, SOC AND WORKERS'
COMMISSIONS) WERE GOING THROUGH THE REGISTRATION PROCEDURES
FOR THE LEGALIZATION OF THEIR UNIONS, THEY SHOULD ALSO
BE DENIED THE RIGHT TO CELEBRATE LABOR DAY. HE DID NOT
SEE HOW THE UGT COULD PREVENT SOME OF ITS MEMBERS FROM
GOING AHEAD DESPITE THE BAN. FINALLY, SIMON INFORMED
THE EMBASSY THAT THE TRADE UNIONS WERE MEETING THE EVENING
OF APRIL 28 TO DISCUSS WHAT SHOULD BE THEIR REACTION TO
THE LATEST DEVELOPMENT. LEUNDA, ON THE OTHER HAND, TOLD
US THAT THE STV WOULD NOT ATTENT THIS MEETING. AS HE PUT
IT, HIS UNION WAS MORE INTERESTED IN GETTING ON WITH THE
JOB OF ORGANIZATION THAN WORRYING ABOUT MAY DAY PROTESTS. EATON

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